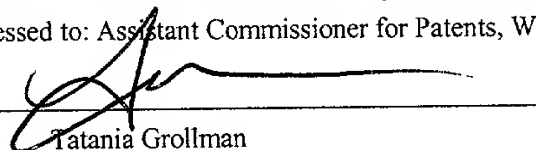


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Tatania Grollman

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Troy J. CHAPMAN

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

For: ANASTOMOSIS DEVICE AND
METHOD

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The above-referenced application is a divisional under 35 U.S.C. §121 of Application Number 09/037,109. These claims are filed pursuant to a Restriction Requirement issued by the Examiner (Paper No. 4). Prior to examination on the merits, applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered and considered.

AMENDMENTS

In the specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, line 2, please add

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/037,109 filed March 9, 1998, the contents of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

In the claims

Please cancel claims 24-30.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested. The specification has been amended to provide reference to a related co-pending U.S. patent application.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 353532000610. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 19, 2001

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